

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 10941 170518Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 ACDA-12 IO-13
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /119 W
-----116106 170521Z /11/10

R 150907Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8848
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10941

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, UR, JA
SUBJECT: SOVIET EXERCISE IN KURILES ENDS, RAISES QUESTION
OF CIVILIAN CONTROL OF JAPANESE FORCES

REF: TOKYO 10536 (NOTAL)

1. EXERCISE DESCRIBED REFTEL REPORTEDLY ENDED JUNE 12,
AS SCHEDULED, WITH JDA MANEUVERS OFF EASTERN HOKKAIDO
STARTING SAME DAY. PRESS ATTENTION TO EVENT DISSIPATED
AS IF BY MAGIC OVER WEEKEND. IN ONLY RECENT PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON SUBJECT, FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA, RESPONDING
TO DIET QUESTION ON JUNE 13, MAINTAINED LOW-KEY GOJ
INTERPRETATION. SONODA SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS REGRETTABLE
JAPANESE-CLAIMED TERRITORY WAS INVOLVED, MANEUVERS HAD
NOT STRAINED JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. JDA DEFENSE BUREAU
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 10941 170518Z

CHIEF ITO ADDED THAT WHILE LANDING ON ETOROFU MAY
WELL HAVE TAKEN PLACE, THIS HAD NOT BEEN VERIFIED.

2. ON HEELS OF ITO STATEMENT TO DIET, HOWEVER, SDF JOINT
STAFF COUNCIL (JSC) CHAIRMAN HIROMI KURISU STATED THAT,
BASED ON HIS INFORMATION, SOVIETS HAD CARRIED OUT LONG-
DISTANCE AMPHIBIOUS LANDING EXERCISE AND THAT HE FELT IT

WAS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT. KURISU NOTED THAT FORCES FROM VLADIVOSTOV AND KHABAROVSK RATHER THAN THOSE FROM NEARBY SAKHALIN WERE EMPLOYED AND, THUS, JAPAN PROPER WAS IN RANGE OF SAME FORCES.

3. MAINICHI WAS QUICK TO CITE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ITO AND KURISU STATEMENTS AS INDICATING PROBLEM OF CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER UNIFORMED SERVICES. NOTING GREATER EXPOSURE OF CIVILIAN OFFICIALS TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, IT SUGGESTED THEY WERE INTERESTED IN DOWNPLAYING SOVIET "PROVOCATIONS" WHILE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH CHINA CONTINUE.

4. IT IS CLEAR THAT KURISU AND ITO HAVE DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF CIVILIAN CONTROL. GENERAL IS ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT JSC CHAIRMAN REPORTING DIRECTLY TO MINISTER RATHER THAN INTERNAL BUREAU IS SUFFICIENT WHILE ITO BELIEVES MILITARY REPORTING AND STATEMENTS MUST BE UNDER CONTROL OF APPROPRIATE JDA INTERNAL BUREAU. DEFENSE MINISTER KANEMARU LEFT JUNE 13 FOR EUROPEAN AND US VISITS WITHOUT TAKING CLEAR STAND ON QUESTION. CONFIRMING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REPORT ON SOVIET MANEUVERS DIRECTLY FROM KURISU ON JUNE 5, HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT QUESTION OF RIGHT OR WRONG ON ANYONE'S PART BUT ONE OF JDA INTERNAL ORGANIZATION, WHICH HE WOULD REVIEW.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 10941 170518Z

5. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT REPRESENTS FIRST PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF ITO-KURISU RIVALRY, WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF SCATTERED REPORTS SINCE THE OUTSPOKEN GENERAL ASSUMED HIS CURRENT POSITION. SOME JDA SOURCES PREDICT THAT CONFRONTATION WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY STRIDENT AND CULMINATE WITH EARLY KURISU RESIGNATION TO RUN FOR SEAT IN UPPER HOUSE OF DIET IN 1980. MANSFIELD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO10941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780253-0546
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780653/aaaabudo.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c33ee287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 10536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2332146
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET EXERCISE IN KURILES ENDS, RAISES QUESTION OF CIVILIAN CONTROL OF JAPANESE FORCES
TAGS: MPOL, UR, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c33ee287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014